

The Board of Public Works of the State of Maryland met at the office of the Governor, in the City of Baltimore, August 1, 1916.

Present: Governor Emerson C. Harrington,

Treasurer John M. Dennis.

Comptroller Hugh A. McMullen was not present.

Alonzo L. Miles, Attorney for the judgment creditors, in the matter of judgments obtained against the State of Maryland by lessees of certain oyster lots in the waters of Somerset County, Tangier Sound, Pocomoke River, etc., appeared before the Board and submitted a compromise offer in the form of the following letter, on the part of all said judgment creditors to accept \$75,000 in full settlement of all said judgments, to be apportioned amongst said creditors as set forth in said compromise proposition:

"July 31, 1916.

Hon. Emerson C. Harrington,

Annapolis, Maryland.

Dear Governor:

Confirming Mr. Miles' conversation with you~~x~~ yesterday, concerning the judgments against the State of Maryland held by certain lessees of oyster lots in the waters of Somerset County, we submit to you the following:

The total amount of the judgments is \$257,985, of which \$191,000 is in favor of the lessees of lots in the Tangier Sound, and \$66,985 is in favor of the lessees of lots in the Annamessex, Manokin and Pocomoke Rivers. With a view to making an equitable distribution of the \$75,000 appropriated by the Legislature of 1916, we have divided the cases into two classes; viz. the Tangier Sound lots and the River lots. The former are held by the Baltimore lessees and the Gibsons of Crisfield, and the latter by Tull, Cox and Mahoney, Gibson, Richardson and Sterling, all residing in Somerset County. As counsel for these several lessees we have considered their relative claims in every aspect with a view to making such a distribution of the sum awarded by the Legislature as will reimburse them as nearly as possible for their outlay, and will recommend to our clients a settlement on the following terms:

River lessees 70% of their judgments for \$66,985, \$46,889.50
 Balance to Tangier Sound lessees, 28,110.50
\$75,000.00

The above sums distributed among the several lessees, pro rata, in proportion to the amount of their respective judgments would result as follows:

	Judgments	Distribution
Tull lots,	\$12,790	\$8953.00
Crockett lots,	12,600	8820.00
Cox lots,	10,920	7644.00
Mahoney lots,	15,300	10710.00
Richardson lots,	9,200	6440.00
Sterling lots,	6,175 66 985	<u>4322.50</u>
		\$46,889.50
Gibson lots,	\$38,000	\$5600.00
Balto., lessees,	153,000	<u>22510.50</u>
		<u>\$28,110.50</u>
		<u>\$75,000.00</u>

If your Excellency and the Board of Public Works approve of this distribution, and will write us promptly making an offer of settlement on the above terms, we will take the matter up at once with out several clients for their consideration and with our recommendation, of their acceptance; it being understood that this settlement is by way of compromise only, under the Act of 1916, and not an admission that the judgments were improperly obtained or excessive.

Yours very truly,

Alonzo L. Miles,
 H. Fillmore Lankford,
 Clarence P. Lankford,
 Semmes, Bowen & Semmes.
 Attorneys for lessees."

The aforesaid proposition was considered and after communicating with Mr. McMullen by phone action on the question was deferred until next Tuesday or Wednesday.

On motion, the meeting adjourned.


 Secretary.